

**For Immediate Release**  
July 19, 2004



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**Governors, Premiers Announce Public Release  
of Historic Great Lakes Protection Draft Agreements**

**Seattle, Wash.** (July 19, 2004) – Representing the eight Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, Governor Bob Taft of Ohio and Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin, Co-Chairs of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, announced today a 90-day public review period for documents created to update the way the Great Lakes and the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are managed and protected.

The draft protective measures, referred to as the draft Annex Implementing Agreements, are the result of three years of efforts by the Governors' and Premiers' staffs to address Great Lakes Basin protection issues ranging from water consumption to diversion. The Annex was an agreement signed by the Governors and Premiers in 2001 to update the Great Lakes Charter of 1985. During the review period that extends until October 18, the draft Annex Implementing Agreements will be available for the public and all interested groups to read and make comments.

"As Co-Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I am pleased to announce the public involvement portion of this important effort to protect the Great Lakes," said Governor Taft. "This process has involved government experts, the environmental community, business, agriculture and other interests. However, the voice of the people is a critical component. Public input ensures the final product is reflective of everyone that uses and depends on this critical resource."

"The Great Lakes are one of greatest resources in North America and the draft implementing agreements are an important step in protecting them. I hope during the next 90 days that everyone with an interest in the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Basin will share their opinions about these protective measures by participating in the public meetings," replied Co-Chair Governor Doyle.

Once the 90-day period is complete and public comments have been taken into account, the agreements will be refined and presented to the Governors and Premiers for their final approval and signature.

Specific protective measures in the draft implementing agreements include:

- A commitment that conservation and information programs will be put in place and maintained in all the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Quebec;
- A commitment to use a uniform, resource-based decision making standard in evaluating future proposals for new or increased water uses;
- A commitment to a collective decision making process for future proposals for regionally significant new or increased water uses; and
- A requirement that all future new or increased diversions and regionally significant water uses in the Great Lakes Basin result in an improvement to the Basin's ecosystem.

Many of the Great Lakes States and Provinces will hold public informational meetings between July 19 and Oct. 18 to allow the public to view and comment on the specifics of the draft implementing agreements. In addition to these events, two regional meetings will be hosted by the Council of Great Lakes Governors in Chicago and Toronto in September. For more information, visit [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org).

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